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ABSTRACT

This reading achievement test, intended for grade 3, is to be completed in 50 minutes. The test contains eight reading selections, each followed by multiple-choice questions related to the selection. (SR)

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GRADE 3 ACHIEVEMENT TEST

English Language Arts

Part B: Reading

June 1989

Alberta EDUCATION

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GRADE 3 ACHIEVEMENT TEST
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Part B: Reading

TO THE TEACHER: Please read aloud the statements on this page only.
Do not read aloud any other parts of the test.
Do not provide assistance in any other way.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- This test asks you to read and to answer questions about what you have read.
- Read each story, report, or poem carefully.
- Read each question carefully. You may read the story, report, or poem again to help you answer any of the questions.
- Read ALL FOUR answers to each question. Choose the BEST answer. Use your pencil to fill in the circle in front of your answer.
- Mark only ONE ANSWER for each question. Do not spend a lot of time on any one question. You will have time to come back to it later.
- If you want to change an answer, erase your first mark COMPLETELY and fill in the correct circle.

NOW DO THE EXAMPLE

Rex is a big dinosaur. He is taller than a giraffe. As a matter of fact, Rex is as tall as a house!

1. What is Rex?

   ○ He is a pet.
   ○ He is a bird.
   ○ He is a giraffe.
   ● He is a dinosaur.

The CORRECT ANSWER is "He is a dinosaur."

YOU HAVE 50 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE TEST.

I. Read the following story and answer questions 1 to 5.

from THE TRUMPET OF THE SWAN

Sam Beaver was eleven. He was strong for his age. The swamp through which he was traveling was a wild place — there was no trail, and it was boggy underfoot, which made walking difficult. Every four or five minutes Sam took his compass out of his pocket and checked his course to make sure he was headed in a westerly direction. Canada is a big place. Much of it is wilderness. To get lost in the woods and swamps of northwestern Canada would be a serious matter.

As he trudged on, the boy's mind was full of the wonder of what he had seen. Not many people in the world have seen the nest of a Trumpeter Swan. Sam had found one on the lonely pond on this day in spring. He had seen the two great white birds with their long white necks and black bills. Nothing he had ever seen before in all his life had made him feel quite the way he felt, on that wild little pond, in the presence of those two <u>enormous</u> swans. They were so much bigger than any bird he had ever seen before. The nest was big, too — a mound of sticks and grasses. The female was sitting on eggs; the male glided slowly back and forth, guarding her.

E. B. White

1. **Why did Sam have difficulty walking through the swamp?**

   - O He was very young.
   - O The ground was boggy.
   - O He was full of wonder.
   - O The swamp was too big.

2. **Why did Sam MOST LIKELY use his compass?**

   - O He could get lost without it.
   - O He wanted to find the swans.
   - O He needed one in Canada.
   - O He liked looking at it.

3. **How did Sam feel in the presence of the two swans?**

   - O Strong
   - O Worried
   - O Full of fear
   - O Full of wonder

4. **In the story, what does the underlined word <u>enormous</u> mean?**

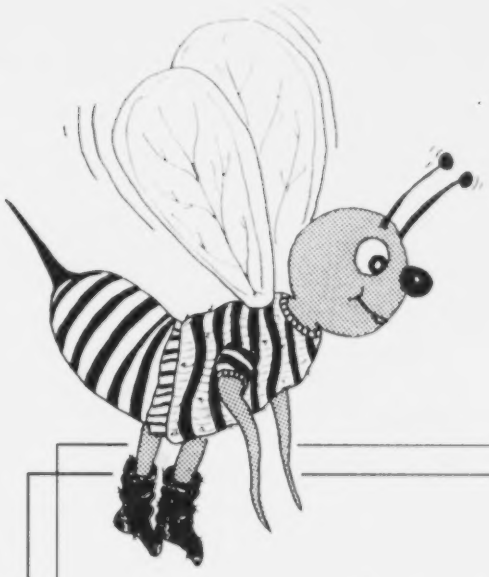
   - O White
   - O Large
   - O Lonely
   - O Straight

5. **Why was the male swan guarding the female swan?**

   - O She was a Trumpeter Swan.
   - O She was sitting on eggs.
   - O She was lonely.
   - O She was small.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

II. Read the following poem and answer questions 6 to 9.



The Bumble Bee

In his brown and yellow sweater,
Buzzing round the hollyhocks,
Flies a great big bumble bee
Wearing thick black woolly socks.
For bumble bees just live for pleasure
And never work a single day,
Oh what a lovely life of leisure
Just to buzz around and play.
In a big snapdragon snoozing
When the sun is just too hot
Then round the flower beds busy cruising
To find another comfy spot.
But there's a problem rather puzzling
And no one's solved the mystery.
Who knits those socks and big striped sweaters?
Can't be lazy bumble bees!

Jeremy Lloyd

6. **In this poem, what do bumble bees like to do BEST of all?**

- ○ They like to knit.
- ○ They like smelling snapdragons.
- ○ They like to buzz around and play.
- ○ They like flying on hot sunny days.

7. **What does the bumble bee do when the sun is too hot?**

- ○ He eats.
- ○ He works.
- ○ He plays.
- ○ He sleeps.

8. **In this poem, what does the underlined word cruising mean?**

- ○ Playing
- ○ Sleeping
- ○ Flying about
- ○ Solving mysteries

9. **What is the mystery that still has to be solved?**

- ○ Where does the bumble bee snooze?
- ○ Where does the bumble bee buzz?
- ○ Who knits for the bumble bee?
- ○ Who never works a single day?

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

III. Read the following report and answer questions 10 to 15.

The Moose

One of the largest animals in the world is the moose. This mammal will stand 2 to 2.5 m high, but, just because it is big, do not think it is easy to catch sight of. Its nose and ears warn it when anyone is near. As quietly as a little chipmunk it can slip away through the forest. Moose are found in forests and swamps in Canada.

The female moose, known as a cow, is slightly smaller than the male moose yet is very strong and fierce. She does not have antlers. Most female moose have one baby each year. The baby moose is called a calf.

The male moose, known as a bull, has antlers which may grow to be 2 m across. In spring the moose sheds his antlers, but by August he has grown a new set. Each year, if the animal is healthy, his antlers get bigger. After about twelve years the moose is old, and then the antlers do not grow so big any more.

Hanging from the neck of the male moose is a piece of skin covered with hair. This is called a bell, and it may grow 30 cm long or more.

Moose have long legs, like stilts. They make it easy for the big animals to reach the leaves on trees. By standing on their hind legs, they can reach leaves 4 m above the ground. However, moose must get down on their knees to eat short grass, for their necks are not long enough to let them reach the grass in any other way.

Moose are good at swimming, and they often go into deep water so that flies cannot bite them. Sometimes they roll in mud until they have a coat of mud that insects cannot bite through.

Moose are brave fighters, and can often fight off wolves or bears unless they are sick or old. Like many other mammals they must try to stay away from man during the hunting season.

Charles P. May

10. **What senses do moose use to keep safe?**

- ○ The senses of smelling and hearing
- ○ The senses of smelling and tasting
- ○ The senses of hearing and touching
- ○ The senses of tasting and seeing

11. **What is another name for a male moose?**

- ○ Antlers
- ○ Stilts
- ○ Mammal
- ○ Bull

12. **In this report, what does the underlined word bell mean?**

- ○ A short neck
- ○ Legs like stilts
- ○ Antlers that may be 2 m across
- ○ Hair-covered skin hanging from the moose's neck

13. **Why is it easy for moose to reach the leaves on trees?**

- ○ The legs of the moose are long.
- ○ His bell is 30 cm long or more.
- ○ The neck of the moose is long.
- ○ His antlers may be 2 m across.

14. **How do moose protect their skins from insect bites?**

- ○ They run through the forest.
- ○ They are brave fighters.
- ○ They grow new antlers.
- ○ They roll in the mud.

15. **What is the WORST enemy of a healthy moose?**

- ○ Man
- ○ Bears
- ○ Flies
- ○ Wolves

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

IV. Read the following fable and answer questions 16 to 20.

The Poor Old Dog

There was an old Dog who was very poor. The only coat he had to wear was mostly holes held together by ragged threads. He could feel the pebbles on the pavement through the thin soles of his tattered shoes. He slept in the park because he had no home.

The Dog spent most of his time searching in garbage cans. He found bits of string and buttons. These he sold for pennies to passersby.

The Dog always walked with his nose close to the curb, looking for things to sell. That is how he came to find the gold ring that was lying in the gutter.

"My luck has changed," cried the Dog, "for I am sure that this is a magic ring!"

The Dog rubbed the ring and said, "I wish for a new coat. I wish for new shoes. I wish for a house to live in. I wish these wishes would come true right now!"

But nothing happened. The Dog felt the wind through the holes in his coat. He felt the pebbles under his thin shoes. That night he slept on his usual bench in the park.

Several days later, the Dog saw a note on a lamppost. The note said "Lost: gold ring. Large reward. Mrs. Terrier. Ten Wealthy Lane."

The old Dog hurried to Wealthy Lane. Mrs. Terrier was overjoyed to have her ring returned. She thanked the Dog profusely and gave him a bulging purse that was full of coins.

The Dog bought a warm fur coat. He bought a pair of good shoes with thick soles.

There was a large amount of money left over.

Arnold Lobel

16. **What did the Dog sell to passersby?**

- ○ Gold rings
- ○ Shiny pebbles
- ○ Coats and shoes
- ○ String and buttons

17. **Why did the Dog think his luck had changed?**

- ○ He found some string and buttons.
- ○ He got pennies from passersby.
- ○ He found a gold ring.
- ○ He got a reward.

18. **How do we know that Mrs. Terrier was rich?**

- ○ She had a fur coat.
- ○ She offered a large reward.
- ○ She put a note on a lamppost.
- ○ She was happy to see her ring.

19. **What did Mrs. Terrier give to the Dog?**

- ○ A cozy little home
- ○ A bulging purse
- ○ A pair of shoes
- ○ A warm coat

20. **What did the Dog MOST LIKELY buy with the money he had left over?**

- ○ A magic bone
- ○ A gold ring
- ○ A house
- ○ A car

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

V. Read the following poem and answer questions 21 to 24.

Winter Morning

Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snow men
And houses into birthday cakes
And spreading sugar over the lakes.
Smooth and clean and frost white
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young,
Catching snowflakes on your tongue.

Snow is snowy when it's snowing
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.

Ogden Nash

21. Why does the poet call winter "the king of showmen"?

- ○ Winter looks good enough to bite.
- ○ Winter is the season to be young.
- ○ Winter is the time to have a birthday.
- ○ Winter changes the look of everything.

22. Why does the poet say the houses are like birthday cakes?

- ○ Because the houses look decorated
- ○ Because the houses look clean
- ○ Because the snow is snowy
- ○ Because the snow is tasty

23. Why does the poet say that winter is the season to be young?

- ○ Because winter is frosty
- ○ Because winter is slushy
- ○ Because children eat snowflakes
- ○ Because children eat birthday cakes

24. What is the snow like when it's going?

- ○ Slushy
- ○ Frosty
- ○ Snowy
- ○ Icy

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

VI. Read the following story and answer questions 25 to 29.

from "WHERE" STORIES

Once upon a time, long, long ago, lived the very first of all the Loons. He saw at once that with so many birds and animals living on the land it was likely to get crowded after a while. So Mr. Loon went to Mother Nature and told her that if she had no objections he would like to live on the water.

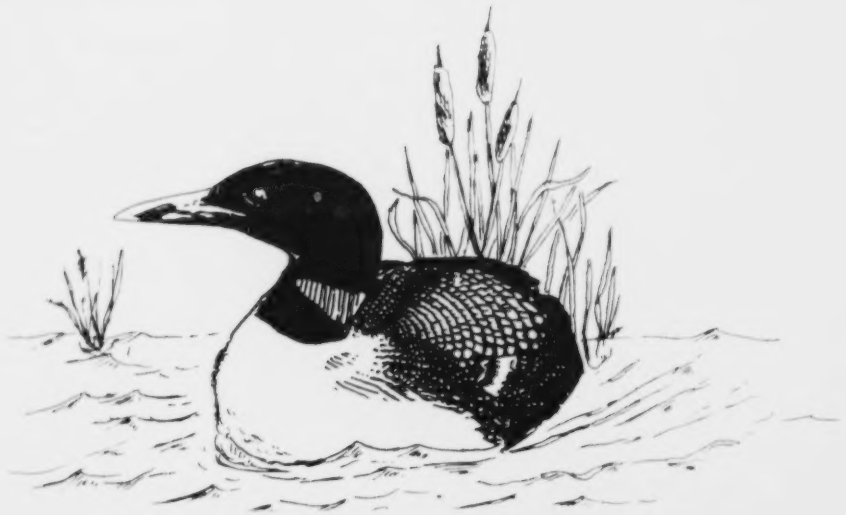
"If you please," he said to Mother Nature, "I would like my legs moved back to the lower end of my body."

"But you'll hardly be able to walk at all with your legs there!" she exclaimed.

Mr. Loon said that he knew that, and that he didn't want to walk. He would far rather spend all his time on the water. So Mother Nature granted his request. Mr. Loon thanked her and started walking. He couldn't keep his balance. He simply flopped along until he reached the water. When he was quite by himself, he dived, and he found that he could drive himself through the water at great speed. When he caught his first fish, he was so delighted that he shrieked and shouted and laughed in the wildest fashion far into the night. And those who had heard his strange request and thought him crazy were sure of it now, as they listened to his wild laughter.

Mr. Loon soon noticed that the sound of his voice sent his neighbors away, and so he would shriek and laugh some more to keep them away. It pleased him to have them think him crazy, and he kept it up so that he would be left alone.

Thornton W. Burgess



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25. Why did Mr. Loon want to leave his home on land?

- O He was tired of walking.
- O Everyone thought he was crazy.
- O Mother Nature told him to leave.
- O He wanted to have more space to live.

26. What change did Mr. Loon want made to his body?

- O He wanted his legs moved to the lower end of his body.
- O He wanted his legs moved to the front of his body.
- O He wanted to walk with all his legs.
- O He wanted a longer neck.

27. Why did Mr. Loon ask Mother Nature to make a change to his body?

- O He wanted to be able to move his tail.
- O He wanted to live on the water.
- O He wanted to be able to shriek.
- O He wanted to be crazy.

28. Why did Mr. Loon begin to shriek and laugh in the wildest fashion?

- O He was crazy about his voice.
- O He wanted to hear himself shout.
- O He was so happy to have caught a fish.
- O He wanted to be noticed by all his neighbors.

29. Why did Mr. Loon continue to shriek and laugh?

- O The noise helped him to fish.
- O The noise sent his neighbors away.
- O The noise made his neighbors happy.
- O The noise brought his neighbors to him.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

VII. Read the following report and answer questions 30 to 35.

Berry *ink*

This is the way ink was made by the pioneers. To use your ink, you will need a fountain pen or a straight pen. Ask your parents if they have one to lend you. If they don't, maybe they will know where to buy one in your neighbourhood.

What You Need:

ripe blueberries, blackberries, cherries, or strawberries
paper cups
baby food jars or yogurt containers with lids
spoon
paper towels

What To Do:

1. Take the stems and leaves off the berries. Put the berries in a paper cup.

2. Press the berries with the back of the spoon until they are mushy.

3. Add a little water to the berries. (The more water you add, the lighter the color of the ink will be.)

4. Stir the berries and water with the spoon until they are well mixed.

5. Lay a square of paper towel over a small jar. Push the towel down into the jar.

6. Slowly pour the berry mixture through the paper towel into the jar.

7. When all the liquid has drained through the paper towel, throw the towel away. The liquid in the jar is your ink. Put the lid on the jar until you're ready to use the ink.

8. Try out different berries to see which kind makes the best ink. Is the color of the ink what you expected when you chose the berries?

David Suzuki with *Barbara Hehner*

30. **What do you have to do to the berries before putting them into a paper cup?**

- ○ Press the berries with the back of the spoon.
- ○ Take the stems and leaves off the berries.
- ○ Find a fountain pen.
- ○ Add a little water.

31. **What do you have to do to make the berries mushy?**

- ○ Add water to the berries.
- ○ Shake the berries in a baby food jar.
- ○ Press the berries with the back of the spoon.
- ○ Pour the berry mixture through the paper towel.

32. **What must you do to make lighter colored ink?**

- ○ Add more water to the berries.
- ○ Add less water to the berries.
- ○ Stir the berries for a long time.
- ○ Drain the liquid from the berries.

33. **Why do you need paper towels to make berry ink?**

- ○ To write on
- ○ To clean the jars
- ○ To crush the berries
- ○ To strain the liquid

34. **Why did pioneers MOST LIKELY use berries to make ink?**

- ○ Because berries could be mixed with water
- ○ Because berries could be found easily
- ○ Because berries fit into small jars
- ○ Because berries tasted good

35. **Why did pioneers MOST LIKELY make their own berry ink?**

- ○ They could not buy ink in a store.
- ○ They liked different colors.
- ○ They liked to pick berries.
- ○ They used straight pens.

VIII. Read the following story and answer questions 36 to 40.

from THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Spring came, and the Boy and his Rabbit had long days in the garden. Where the Boy went the Rabbit went too. He had rides in the wheelbarrow, and picnics on the grass. Once, when the Boy was called away suddenly to go out to tea, the Rabbit was left out on the lawn until long after dusk. Nana had to come and look for him because the Boy couldn't go to sleep unless his Rabbit was there. The Rabbit was wet through with the dew and quite earthy from diving into the burrows the Boy had made for him in the flower bed. Nana grumbled as she rubbed him off with a corner of her apron.

"You must have your old Bunny!" she said. "Fancy all that fuss for a toy!"

The Boy sat up in bed and stretched out his hands.

"Give me my Bunny!" he said. "You mustn't say that. He isn't a toy. He's REAL!"

When the little Rabbit heard "He's REAL!" he was happy. He remembered what the Skin Horse had said to him once. "If the nursery magic happens to you, you will be a toy no longer. You will be REAL!" The Boy himself had said it too.

That night the Rabbit was almost too happy to sleep. So much love stirred in his little sawdust heart that it almost burst. And into his boot-button eyes, that had long ago lost their polish, there came a look of wisdom and beauty. Even Nana noticed it next morning when she picked him up and said, "I declare if that old Bunny hasn't got quite a knowing expression!"

Margery Williams

36. Which sentence BEST tells us that the Boy and the Rabbit were friends?

- ○ Nana took care of them both.
- ○ They lived in the same house.
- ○ They went everywhere together.
- ○ Nana liked the Boy and the Rabbit.

37. What did the Boy need before he could sleep?

- ○ Nana to tuck him in
- ○ Nana to read him a story
- ○ Nana to bring him the Rabbit
- ○ Nana to bring him the Skin Horse

38. Which sentence BEST tells us that the Rabbit was no longer a toy?

- ○ "'You will be REAL!'"
- ○ "Love stirred in his little sawdust heart."
- ○ "The Rabbit was wet through with the dew."
- ○ "The Boy and his Rabbit had long days in the garden."

39. Why was the Rabbit almost too happy to sleep?

- ○ Skin Horse became his friend.
- ○ He thought about the picnic.
- ○ Nana found him on the lawn.
- ○ He had become real.

40. What happened to the Rabbit's eyes?

- ○ They changed color.
- ○ They looked sleepy.
- ○ They looked wise.
- ○ They became sad.

THE END

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GRADE THREE LANGUAGE ARTS ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Alberta EDUCATION

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- ○ Other

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